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plutocracy, engaged in the exploitation of humanity. Professor Sims has written a thoughtful and spirited survey of significant tendencies and aspirations in American democracy.

L. P. F.

THOMPSON, CARL D. *Municipal Ownership*. Pp. xi, 114. Price, \$1.00. New York: B. W. Huebsch, 1917.

The chief contribution in this work is an adequate presentation of proof that regulation of public utilities is a complete failure and that private ownership of public utilities is the most important cause of corrupt government.

The author seems to err in the importance he attaches to increasing the wages paid to employees of municipally-owned public utilities. Fortunately, however, the advantages are not restricted to labor. He demonstrates that rates charged under municipal ownership succeeding private ownership of public utilities have been reduced materially. He stresses an important point when he says: "Municipal ownership should not be used as a means of making profit in order to reduce taxes." Mr. Thompson errs, too, in claiming that reducing the cost of water, gas, street car fares, and he adds, "even rents," will reduce the cost of living.

He sounds a soothing note to the present owners of public utilities in his statement: "Only those who are operating utilities stand to lose (under municipal ownership) . . . and this will be only a temporary loss that will more than be made up to them we verily believe in the vastly greater gains of the common good." It is impossible to agree with this view, and unnecessary in order to believe in municipal ownership and operation.

The most serious omission is the failure to discuss how municipalities are to secure the funds to acquire their public utilities.

BENJAMIN MARSH.

*New York City.*

#### SOCIOLOGY

ABBOTT, GRACE. *The Immigrant and the Community*. Pp. vii, 303. Price, \$1.50. New York: The Century Company, 1917.

The author, long Director of the Immigrants' Protective League in Chicago, has had intimate contact with various immigrant groups and thus writes from personal experience. Many have given us labored evidences of their prejudices, others, of their keen emotional bias. Miss Abbott has been able to put her evidence into readable form, to appeal to our common humanity and yet reveal that she is not blind to the problems involved.

Beginning with the journey to America the actual experiences of the incomers are related. Then we follow them through the mysteries of finding employment, the dangers of exploitation, and the special tribulations of the immigrant girls. Next we are shown the immigrant's relation to our social institutions, courts, industries, schools, polities. Everywhere actual cases are related giving a note of reality to the account. The volume closes with two rather unusual chapters on the Immigrant and American Internationalism, and the Immigrant's Place in a Social Program.